(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for providing the alternative livelihood for these tribes on account of decreasing forest areas; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for their upliftment?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched a new initiative in the year 2005-06 for the development of forest villages under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP), under which infrastructure work relating to basic services and facilities *viz.* approach roads,healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to livelihood are taken up for implementation. Under the programme, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs so far has sanctioned and released Rs.412,77.95 lakh for 2,388 forest villages/habitations spread in 11 States. In addition, the scheme of Grant-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations (STDCCs) for Minor Forest Produce operations aims at ensuring remunerative prices to tribals enagaged in the collection of MFPs.

Further, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dewllers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been enacted by the Parliament. The Act seeks to recognise and vest certain forest rights in forest dweling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded to ensure (a) tenurial security, providing them relief against the physical and psychological alienation from land belonging to them; (b) livelihood, in terms of agriculture and ownership of minor forest produce, including right to collect, use, and dispose the same; and (c) traditional and customary rights.

Violence and discrimination against dalit and tribal communities

4253. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nations criticized that Government had failed to properly protect dalit and tribal communities;

(b) whether Government have also been asked by international human rights organization to implement the recommendations of UN committee regarding rising violence and discrimination against dalits in the country;

(c) if so, Government's response thereto;

(d) the total number of cases of violence and discrimination against dalits in the last year, State-wise; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH): (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Identification of malnutrition levels

4254. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been carrying out any exercise to identify the levels of malnutrition and under-nourishment prevailing among the women and children population in rural, semi-urban and urban areas in the States;

(b) if so, the details of finding of such exercises in respect of Jharkhand State indicating the steps taken, if any, for augmentation of the levels; and

(c) if not, the method being relied upon by Government to ascretain the situation and for verification of the authenticity of data projected by various non-governmental organization, in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. Surveys conducted under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare identify the levels of malnutrition and under-nourishment prevalent among women and children. These are National Family Health Surveys conducted by the International Institute of Population Science, Mumbai; Diet and Nutrition surveys by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) of Indian Council Medical Research (ICMR) and the District Level